



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE DURING CRITICAL INCIDENTS

BY MSP TROOPER BEN SONSTROM

Medical response training for law enforcement is an important component of initial and ongoing training. It is also typically viewed as one of our least favorite topics to endure. Throughout the years, we have seen changes in medical response training based on updates from the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association regarding care for choking and pulseless patients. These standards had us treating patients by utilizing the basics of Airway, Breathing, and Circulation (ABC's).

Recently however, our priorities have shifted on several levels. Americans have been targeted during numerous terrorist attacks on our soil. The events that occurred on September 11, 2001, Oklahoma City bombing, Boston Marathon bombing, the mass shootings in schools, malls, and places of business and worship, natural disasters as well as grave violence towards police officers, serves as a wakeup call. The threat continues in our country and the critical incidents we encounter become increasingly violent. Criminals and terrorists are training to defeat law enforcement. All of the above has forced us to re-examine our priorities in regards to the response to critical incidents.

When deciding how to set priorities for training and equipment we can

look to our military. Over years of experience and valuable lessons learned, our military has identified the leading causes of "potentially preventable death" in the combat environment: 1) bleeding from extremities, 2) tension pneumothorax, and 3) airway compromise. Subsequently, in 1996 the military developed and implemented the evidence based medicine program Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC). The main goals of TCCC are to: 1) treat the casualty, 2) prevent additional casualties, and 3) complete the mission. These goals are accomplished by getting off the X (the location where injury occurred and effective threat still exists), eliminating the threat, utilizing cover, and providing medical care utilizing specialized equipment designed to save lives during combat. The adoption and implementation of TCCC by the military has been a main reason why the highest combat casualty survival rate in history is being documented. We are hopeful that civilian law enforcement can make use of the same lessons learned.

The equipment utilized in TCCC is often stored in an Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK) and designed to address the three main causes of potentially preventable death. A tourniquet, hemostatic agents/gauze, pressure dressing, occlusive chest seal and a nasopharyngeal airway make up the basic contents. Equipping officers with IFAK's and an additional tourniquet on their person will better prepare individuals to mitigate life threatening trauma during critical incidents. The TCCC committee is currently recommending the Combat Application Tourniquet and Combat Gauze as the most successful tourniquet and hemostatic agent. With the proper training and equipment, many in civilian law enforcement have adopted TCCC in

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR....

The issue of Police Reserves surfaced this year and MCOLES was compelled to look into several jurisdictions who had alleged abuse of these reserves, specifically in how they were being used in the capacity of a fully sworn police officer. The point of my article will not be those investigations, but rather the issue of civilian volunteers in police agencies. No one at MCOLES is against the use of civilian volunteers and certainly the expression of civic duty and the selfless contributions people are willing to make for their communities is applauded. However, common sense must come into play and not just the bottom line, when it comes to the types of duties that these civilians are being allowed to perform.



*David L. Harvey*

In today's world, Mayberry RFD and Dirty Harry don't exist using both as examples of the extremes in policing. Regardless the size of the agency, there is no room for complacency on the part of the law enforcement official, nor is there room for Dirty Harry type tactics. In between those extremes, a professionally well-trained, ethical, moral police officer exists. The same dangers exist every day, whether it's a one officer agency or 2,800 officers. My first Public Safety Officer Benefit check went to a chief from a very small agency who was permanently disabled from a gunshot on duty. Ironically that chief retired from a larger agency and told me he would not have been as complacent at his previous department as he was the day he was shot while apprehending a local. The dynamic, volatile environment that the professional police officer works in is on display every day in the news. Every move and thought of the officer is examined; previous history is displayed for the world to form their opinion long before the issue is decided by the criminal justice system and the departmental investigation. No officer I know purposely walks into a situation like that, they merely go where they are dispatched or take action as they see necessary. They then deal with the situation based on a multitude of things, most of which should be training. Yet some communities and unfortunately police administrators put citizens without adequate -- or in many instances-- no training in the streets where they could be propelled into a police situation. Many of these individuals look identical to a licensed police officer, while some simply carry badges and pick and choose when to display it. Anytime one of these citizens puts on a police uniform or simply identifies themselves as a police officer, reserve or not, they expose themselves to physical and financial harm, not to mention the civil liability issues for the community.

The fire profession is way ahead of police agencies in this state and probably this country. To be a firefighter, a person must complete a basic fire academy whether full time, part time, paid on call, or volunteer. That makes perfect sense, as no one should be placed into fighting a fire without proper training. Then why in law enforcement do we put volunteers in the streets with a gun, badge, uniform, and little or no training? I have yet to find that answer beyond the monetary savings which is ridiculous compared to the probable negative outcomes.



## OFFICER SAFETY: COMPLEX AND PERSONAL!

Who is the quintessential “safest” member of law enforcement? Is it the hypervigilant rookie, the tactical genius, the smooth talking investigator, the athletic bicycle cop, or the seasoned veteran? Which is more likely to affect the everyday behavior and decision-making of these officers: an 8-hour block of training or the officer’s attitude, habits, and deep-seated beliefs?

Veteran trainers recognize the message of these thought-provoking prompts; officer safety is complex, multidimensional, specific to each situation, and heavily influenced by our abilities, behaviors, and overall personality. Officer safety is affected by many variables and ever-changing circumstances, with the only constant being the personal attributes and “world view” of the individual officer involved.

When we bring all the relevant elements of officer safety together in a balanced and practical manner, it likely makes us safer. Yet, when germane components are missing, it likely increases our risk. Since we never know which officer safety concept will be needed in the next situation we face, mastering only a few does not necessarily enhance our safety.

For example, athletic prowess alone may not be as essential in a gun fight as combat tactics, weapons proficiency, and the ability to perform during life-threatening stress. Similarly, tactical communication might not be sufficient to arrest an ex-con who has already decided he’s not going back to prison, no matter what we say, or how we say it. Even the ability to recognize danger signs does not necessarily enhance our safety unless we react to them appropriately. Finally, experience and street smarts might not get us through a life-threatening encounter if we are not mentally and emotionally prepared to deploy deadly force.

Simply stated, officers who have the “entire package” are most likely the safest. This includes simple habits like wearing a vest and seat belt (tenants of Below 100), more complicated skills like tactical movement and control techniques, and personality traits like communication skills and the constant quest for additional

training.

Trainers assess student-officers during training and notice that some are physically inferior, tactically unsound, or not aware of their surroundings. They identify the warriors as well; the ones they believe are engaged in training and seem sufficiently prepared for the dangers of the profession.

What is not emphasized enough is the simple notion that our attitude and world view have a strong influence on our daily behavior and personal safety. A common example of this involves an officer who unconsciously believes, “it will not happen to me.” This officer will be less likely to realize the importance of officer safety, less motivated to embrace training, less likely to change dangerous behaviors, and ultimately less prepared to handle an emergency situation.

Warriors can be negatively influenced by personality traits as well. The annual FBI findings in the Law Enforcement Officer Killed and Assaulted report (LEOKA) point to overconfidence, failure to request or wait for backup, and rushing in without a plan as contributing factors in some officer deaths.

We all fall somewhere on the officer safety “spectrum,” naturally good at some components and dangerously weak at others. Where we land on the spectrum is likely the result of training, proficiency, attitude, and personal attributes. The key to officer safety training is to start with a self-assessment to determine one’s strengths and weaknesses. Once officers realize where they fall on the spectrum, and why, they can focus on their vulnerabilities and make improvements.

The recently developed *Advisory In-Service Training Standard in Officer Safety* emphasizes the individuality of officer safety. The first training objective causes each student-officer to complete a self-assessment, which consists of 75 statements that describe behaviors, beliefs, and personal attributes that help mitigate officer risk. Officers read the statements and then rank their agreement with each statement on a scale from 1 to 5, where higher numbers

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## MCOLES SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE: OFFICER RICK CORNELL

Chelsea Police Officer Rick Cornell loves his job. And devotion to duty in law enforcement doesn't come without sacrifice. For Cornell, that meant a divorce, which happened after his first wife asked him to retire and quit working in 1999.

Cornell's response? He retired from Ann Arbor Police, divorced his then-wife and left for the country of Bosnia, where he was a human rights monitor. He lived there for 18 months but returned and took a job with the Chelsea Police Department.

And he's going strong after 44 years of service at the age of 66. Rick's MCOLES number is 4858. The last number issued was 45848, which means 40,990 officers have been licensed in the State of Michigan since Rick began his career!

While virtually all of his peers have retired, Cornell continues to serve in a full time capacity at the age of 66, still riding the departmental Harley Davidson motorcycle on patrol.

Cornell said it is the love of the job that keeps him going. He believes that being a police officer is a calling and one he can't imagine not doing.

"If you look at this profession as a job and not a calling, you are doing a disservice to the public and your fellow officers," Cornell said.

Cornell said he still can't wait to get to work every day after 44 years and has no plans to retire. He said he is absolutely addicted to being a road cop.

Cornell started his career with the Ann Arbor Police Department in 1970 after graduating from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. His starting pay was \$8,200 a year, which he thought was a lot of money. He served in Ann Arbor for 29 years, virtually all of which were spent working afternoons as a motorcycle officer downtown. After retiring from the Ann Arbor Police Department in 1999, Cornell served for 18 months with Dynacorp as a United

Nations officer in Bosnia. He served as the Chief of Operations for 225 United Nations monitors who were investigating human rights violations. Entire villages were wiped out due to ethnic cleansing and Cornell stated the atrocities he saw were unspeakable and gave him a real appreciation for the United States.

After returning to the United States, he was hired by the Chelsea Police Department, where he currently serves as a case, patrol, and motorcycle officer. He said he has found policing in a small town very different from the atmosphere in Ann Arbor. While he loved working in Ann Arbor, he never felt like the community was as supportive for the police department as it could have been. According to Cornell, the Chelsea community totally embraces the police officers of their town and he feels he is in a parade everyday while he is at work, as he is constantly waving to people.



Cornell had an uncanny skill in communicating with the public, but was especially adept in dealing with the street people of Ann Arbor and had a special relationship with them. Most considered "Officer Rick" their friend. Ann Arbor has a large population of street people that are constants in the lives of the officers. Most have problems with drugs and/or alcohol and present nuisance problems downtown and in the campus area. While some would look down upon these people, Cornell would always treat them with respect and courtesy. He believes "but by the grace of God" that any of us

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## MCOLES SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE: TROOPER RICHARD “DICK” NORTHRUP

**T**rooper Richard “Dick” Northrup’s 38 year career with the Michigan State Police was one of compassion and service. Trooper Northrup was



“true blue” and his time with the Michigan State Police was one he loved dearly. Dick even met his future wife Pat, through his duties as a Michigan State Trooper when he was dispatched to her school in Tecumseh due to a break-in. Pat was a teacher at the school and Dick responded to her room in the summer of 1977 to investigate the crime. Dick not only solved the case, but met his future bride, so he was definitely successful on this case!

Dick not only solved the case, but met his future bride, so he was definitely successful on this case!

Trooper Northrup began his career with the State Police in 1974 as a “Michigan State Police Service Trooper.” Service troopers were utilized for check lanes for vehicle and school bus inspections, working with local troopers who issued any violations that the service troopers discovered. To become a service trooper, Dick had to attend a four week academy in Lansing.

In 1977, Dick was accepted into the 90th Michigan State Police Recruit School. Of the 64 recruits that graduated from the 90th, one would lose her life in the line of duty due to a traffic accident. Dick was the last trooper from his recruit school to retire. He stated he stayed so long as he simply enjoyed the work and wishes now that he would have stayed for an even 40 years. The only reason he decided to retire was because of two bad knees, which would be replaced within a week of his retirement in 2013.

When he left the academy, Dick was assigned to the Clinton/Blissfield team and lived in the post as single troopers could do so until they married or chose to live elsewhere. Dick stated he finally moved out of the post as there was no air conditioning and the summers were

brutal in his second floor room.

Growing up in Howell, Dick was unsure of what he wanted to do with his life until he met Inspector Gene Weiler of the Michigan State Police. Dick said that Inspector Weiler was inspirational to him and was convinced he wanted to become a state trooper after listening to his stories. Along with Inspector Weiler, F/Lt. James McGaffigan was a very important mentor to him and many other troopers. Lt. McGaffigan was extremely well respected as he “always stood by you and if you made a mistake he would only ask that you let him know first.”

Dick has won many awards during his career, the most prestigious being named the 2012 Michigan State Police Trooper of the Year. This award is not only for on-duty exploits, but for service off duty in the community. Dick has been an extremely active member of the Boy Scouts of America for 49 years and holds the rank of Eagle Scout. He enjoys working with the scouts and was awarded the “Silver Antelope Award” for his work with the Boy Scouts by the National Boy Scout Council, an award seldom given.

Dick believes the difference from today’s troopers and those from his era is the change in technology. When a new recruit came to the post he was amazed by what was being taught to them due to these changes. He feels today’s recruits are on par with those from his recruit class in 1977. When a new recruit was assigned to the post he always treated them as an equal as he believed in mentoring them. Before the FTO program was established, new troopers were assigned to work one week with each trooper at the post. Dick feels this was invaluable as the recruits learned from many different people, instead of three Field Training Officers.

While proud of many accomplishments, one that stood out with Dick was the seizure of 1,200 pounds of marijuana concealed in a pop-up camper, heading for distribution in Ann Arbor. Working midnights with Trooper Warren Hardy was his favorite period of time with the state police. Both troopers had over 30 years of service

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could be in the position these street people find themselves in. While holding them accountable for their actions, he always treated them respectfully and they in turn became sources of information for him. Most of these people had interesting stories that led them to this path. They came from dysfunctional families and Cornell believes without a nurturing home, they did not have the mechanisms to deal their personal problems. They came to a fork in the road and made the wrong choice. He credits his parent's teachings for giving him the ability to see the world through other people's eyes and treat them with empathy.

Cornell's gift of gab helped him secure a position with the Hostage Negotiations Unit (HNU) in Ann Arbor. Trying to talk someone into doing something they clearly do not want to do was a source of pride for Cornell. Knowing your next words to someone in crisis could swing the incident critically one way or the other is a huge responsibility, but one he said he enjoyed immensely.

One of his most rewarding cases while working HNU was talking a man off the ledge of a seven story parking structure in downtown Ann Arbor.

Cornell stated the biggest difference between today's police recruit and those from his era, is the grasp of the written word, which he views as extremely important. While the recruits today are extremely bright, he feels if they can't put together an excellent police report they will never reach their true potential.

When Cornell returned from Bosnia, which he compared to "running away to the circus" and escaping his first marriage, he married again. He is currently married to an Ann Arbor officer and believes being married to another officer helps, as she knows what his job entails. When he won't take time off now, his current wife is quick to tell him, "you ruined one marriage, don't ruin another."

Working afternoons for most of his career meant being away from most family functions and he regrets the time spent away from his daughter. He tried working day shift at times, but the excitement of afternoons always pulled him back. While he is close to his daughter and has apologized "a thousand times", he will always carry that guilt. He has two grandchildren, one of which attends Chelsea High School.

MCOLES would like to congratulate Officer Cornell for 44 years of dedicated service!

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order to promote self-aid, allowing a wounded officer to apply a tourniquet to his or her extremity and remain in the fight.

Many law enforcement agencies throughout the nation have trained and equipped their officers utilizing the TCCC concepts and recommended products. Many lives have been saved during critical incidents because of this. Lives have also been saved during vehicle crashes and other non violent traumatic incidents due to the quick action of properly trained and equipped officers. Recently, a program has been developed in cooperation with TCCC named Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC). The basic concepts and medical modalities are the same as TCCC, although the program was designed to utilize a basic, common language to integrate all responders such as EMS, fire, and police to handle a broad range of incidents.

MCOLES has recently established a committee of law enforcement trainers and medical professionals to establish best practices in regards to medical training for Michigan police officers. A new basic training curriculum update will soon be released that will incorporate TECC as well as numerous other enhancements to include a new patient/casualty assessment mnemonic called MARCH (Massive bleeding, Airway, Respirations, Circulation, and Hypothermia/Head Injury). MARCH will replace the longstanding Airway, Breathing, and Circulation (ABC's) and allows you to evaluate casualties to effectively recognize and mitigate life-threatening injuries.

For information on the new MCOLES First Aid curriculum, contact Wayne Carlson at 517-322-5614 or CarlsonW1@michigan.gov .



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equate to safer officers.

Some statements are obvious in their connection to officer safety, like the statement that refers to recognizing tell-tale signs of armed individuals. Other statements are less obvious, like the one that refers to handling a “contempt of cop” situation, the one that refers to taking “shortcuts” to increase productivity, or the one that refers to maintaining control after the adrenalin rush of a physical altercation.

The intent of the self-assessment is to: 1) make officer safety personal to each officer, 2) highlight strengths and weaknesses so officers realize what areas they need improvement, 3) demonstrate that one’s attitude and world view influences behavior and decision-making, and 4) provide relevance and value to any subsequent training in officer safety.

This assessment is a “living” document because these statements can be modified or changed as research, feedback, or local incidents highlight more pressing issues related to officer injury or death. When veteran officers review the self-assessment, they will undoubtedly think of a handful of officer safety issues that they would like to add to the list of statements.

A self-assessment should be without negative ramifications to the officers if we expect them to be honest and accurate. This could be achieved by keeping it confidential and anonymous so the officers would not fear admitting their shortcomings. Whether your next training session is full of “Ninja Warriors” or below average officers, every one of them can benefit from self-awareness in the area of officer safety.

Bottom line, officer safety training should not be a “one-size-fits-all” proposition, because it is actually a very personal endeavor.

To get an electronic copy of the MCOLES Advisory In-Service Training Standard in Officer Safety, contact Danny Rosa at (517) 322-6449 or [rosad@michigan.gov](mailto:rosad@michigan.gov).

**MCOLES Spotlight: Trooper Northrup ~ continued from page 5>**

and led their post with drunk driving and fugitive arrests for two straight years. Quite an accomplishment when measured against the young troopers at the post!

Dick misses the daily camaraderie with his fellow troopers but doesn’t miss the negatives of the job such as delivering death notices. He often thinks of these and how this horrible news impacted people’s lives.



Dick’s advice to new officers is to “keep your eyes and ears open, take in all you can, listen to people, and keep your mouth shut until it’s time to talk. Keep up with the technology, value the experience of the older officer, and in my case, don’t lose the traditions of the Michigan State Police.”

MCOLES would like to congratulate Trooper Northrup for 38 years of dedicated service.

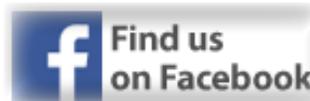
***If you know of a senior deputy, officer, or trooper that you would like spotlighted in the MCOLES Newsletter, or any officer who has significantly given back to the community, please contact:***

***Michael Logghe at [logghe@michigan.gov](mailto:logghe@michigan.gov) or 517-896-7021.***

**MCOLES LAUNCHES FACEBOOK PAGE**

MCOLES is now on Facebook! We will be posting relevant information for potential recruits, licensed law enforcement officers, basic training academies, and the general criminal justice community. Please check out our page, give us a “LIKE”, and share our page with people you know.

Our Facebook address is: [www.facebook.com/Michigan.mcoles](http://www.facebook.com/Michigan.mcoles). We look forward to connecting with new “Friends”.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCE CENTER



The Law Enforcement Resource Center (LERC) serves as a central repository for law enforcement training resources and is available to all law enforcement agencies in Michigan, all MCOLES licensed law enforcement officers, law enforcement training academies, and MCOLES approved criminal justice programs. Our resources are in either DVD or VHS format. These programs are available on a “free-loan” basis and are typically scheduled for use ahead of time. The only cost to you is the return shipping.

The Resource Center provides educational materials on a variety of subjects, such as:

- Criminal Investigations
- Officer Safety
- Patrol Procedures
- Defense Techniques
- Police Psychology
- Driving Skills
- Drug and Alcohol Training
- Meeting Openers
- Report Writing
- Incident Command
- Many more topics

The LERC hours are 7:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday. All materials are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and should be scheduled at least one week in advance. It is imperative that all materials are returned via UPS or First Class Insured. For further information, visit the MCOLES website at: [http://www.michigan.gov/mcoles/0,4607,7-229-41624\\_43197---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mcoles/0,4607,7-229-41624_43197---,00.html) or contact Sandi Luther at [luthers@michigan.gov](mailto:luthers@michigan.gov).

## MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL FUND



Governor Snyder signed 2014 PA 252 approving a special grant of matching funds for the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument. *Every dollar contributed will be matched with two dollars by the State of Michigan, until October 1, 2015.* The Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument will be built along Allegan Avenue in the Capitol Park area, near the Michigan Hall of Justice and the Michigan Vietnam Memorial.

Please help spread this message and contribute to the fund to honor and remember fellow law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. For more information on how to contribute, go to: <http://media.state.mi.us/michiganestore/public/ProductDetails.aspx?categoryId=7&productId=266>

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## UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETINGS

November 5, 2014 ~TBA

December 10, 2014 ~TBA



## LARRY NEHASIL PUMP AND RUN MEMORIAL

Danny Rosa, John Steele, and David Harvey participated in the 2nd Annual Larry Nehasil Memorial Pump and Run to raise funds for the Larry Nehasil Memorial Park in the city of Livonia. The event involves benching your own weight as many times as you can on Friday and then running a 5K on Saturday morning. Each bench press takes 30 seconds off your time in the 5K.



*Danny Rosa, Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid, John Steele, and David Harvey*

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